

REMARKS

Applicants and the undersigned are most grateful for the time and effort accorded the instant application by the Examiner.

Upon entry of the instant Amendment, Claims 1-12, 14-19 and 21-27 will be all of the claims presently pending before the Examiner.

I. Claim Rejections

a. Double Patenting

Claims 1-11, 16-19, 21-27 are provisionally rejected under obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-12, 15-19, and 22-30 of co-pending Application No. 10/573,217 (hereinafter "the '217 application").

Applicants are filing a terminal disclaimer simultaneously, thereby, overcoming said rejections, which can now be withdrawn.

II. Claim Objections

Claims 14 and 15 are objected to as being allowable but for being dependent upon a rejected claim. In light of the filing of a terminal disclaimer as discussed above, the claims from which Claims 14 and 15 depend will no longer be under rejection, therefore, the instant objections can be withdrawn.

III. Conclusion

In summary, it is respectfully submitted that the instant application, including Claims 1-12, 14-19 and 21-27, is presently in condition for allowance. Notice to the effect is earnestly solicited. If there are any further issues in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is hereby authorized to charge any fees, including any fees for an extension of time or those under 37 CFR 1.16 or 1.17, which may be required by this paper, and/or to credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-2527.

Respectfully,

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